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Some Jolly Games For The Merry Yule Party

FOR a new and jolly game which costs nothing to get up fill a good sized basket with words cut from newspaper headlines. Each word should be cut out in a small square. Players sit around a large table and each receives a square of pasteboard or a sheet of heavy paper. In the middle of the board is placed the basket filled with words. There should be a couple of bottles of paste or mucilage besides.

Each player in turn is given a hatpin which he plunges into the basket. All words brought up on the hatpin belong to the person jabbing. When each player has jabbed six times in turn the pins are laid aside and the point now becomes to see who can form the cleverest Christmas telegrams from the words jabbed up. Allow fifteen minutes for working out these phrases. The entertainer or some one who does not enter into the game decides which is cleverest. Give a book of witty sayings as a prize in this round.

A lively blindfold contest results when guests are required to tie bundles on a Christmas tree blindfolded. The Christmas tree may be a very small one arranged in a bucket on the table if no trimmed tree is at hand. Of course the blind men start from a point as far from the tree as possible. Each bundle has a small box of bonbons or even a popcorn ball half tucked away at its heart. The bonbons belong to the player who is successful in tying the package to the tree.

A toy race is always jolly too. This is where wheel toys are pushed over a certain course with umbrellas or where mechanical toys are wound up and sent trundling across the room at a given signal. The person first to push his wheel or toy over the course is winner, and the mechanical toy which outdistances its fellows also wins for its owner a prize. Any toy which overruns in the race is barred from honors.

Now, let all gather around the table and distribute squares of paper or pasteboard black on one side and white on another, with pencils and scissors.

Ten minutes are allowed in which all draw portraits (heads) of Santa Claus on the white side of the paper or board. Allow as much more time as is necessary for each to cut out the portrait he or she has been drawing.

Each player then signs the silhouette with his initials, and the various outline portraits thus formed are tacked up black side out on something white, such as a square of muslin or a sheet of white paper, where they will show to best advantage. Some one, who does not enter the game, is then called on to say which is the cleverest, and the guest whose work this judge prefers wins a prize. A candy box representing the Christmas saint makes a good choice in prizes.

Indoor Fun For the Kiddies

During the holiday school vacation it is difficult to keep the youngsters out of mischief and yet keep them amused. This is especially true in the evening, when they cannot play out of doors. A suggested solution of the problem may be found in the following games:

Give each child a bowl of popcorn and a needle and thread. At a signal all begin stringing the corn. The one stringing the most in a given length of time is awarded a prize.

Give children pencils and paper and then read a paragraph from a book backward. Read each word slowly and have the children write them down as you read them. When you have finished have the children begin at the last word they have taken down and write the paragraph forward. The youngster whose paragraph shows the punctuation placed nearest to the way they are printed in the book gets the book as a prize.

Place a row of plates on the floor along one side of the room. Have a plate for each child and let each plate hold an orange, an apple and twenty pieces of candy. An equal number of empty plates should be placed on the opposite side of the room. Arm each of the youngsters with a teaspoon and at a given signal let them transfer the contents of the filled plates to the empty plates. Only one object can be carried at a time, and if it is dropped the carrier must return it to the plate and start over again. A prize may be given to the contestant who fills his plate first.

"Kitchen Kumpany"

To make a success of "kitchen kumpany," a jolly Christmas game, the "kumpany" should consist of eight to ten girls and boys who are all intimately acquainted.

Have ready a large bowl of batter for pancakes. Each boy is provided with an apron and told to cook a cake. His partner, a girl, may stand by and instruct him, but she must not take a hand in the cooking at all.

The couple making the best cake receives a prize. Then there can be candy making, such as chocolate or nut fudge, and when all the cakes are baked the kitchen table is set and the guests eat the fruits of their labor.

Plays on Christmas Eve.

A Christmas custom of ours and the one possessing the greatest antiquity is that of presenting plays the evening of the 24th of December. This was first noticed in the west of England. For several hundred years "St. George and the Dragon" was the most popular. The actors, always children, were fantastically dressed and decorated with ribbons, brightly colored paper and wooden swords. The theme was war and love. There were debate, battle, death and mimicry and a physician ever ready to restore the dead to life. This custom sprang from the ancient crusaders, consequently the feats of chivalry and the romantic extravagance of knight errantry that are preserved to this day in a modified degree.

Masking, which is practiced to some extent among Scotchmen, is derived from the Roman Saturnalia, when people disguised themselves and practiced tricks upon their neighbors. This is now but scantily indulged in, but such of it as exists has been preserved since the fifth or sixth century. The Survey of London mentions a splendid "mummerie" which was performed by the citizens in honor of Prince Richard, son of the Black Prince, in the year 1377.

We do not hear very much nowadays about the lord of misrule or the waits, but both are remembered. The former had license to do everything he could think of to keep up the jollity during the "twelve days," and the latter referred to wandering minstrels, who serenaded houses and waited until food and wine or, more acceptable, money was bestowed upon them.

Our games on Christmas night of cards, billiards, shuffleboard, muskies, dancing and the tales that are told of knights, ladies, lovers, queens, kings, giants, dwarfs, witches, fairies, goblins and the rest were played and indulged in so long ago that the remotest historian has been unable to ascertain the correct date of their beginning.

A Chinese Gutenberg.

There is pretty good evidence of a Chinese Gutenberg, one Pi Ching, who in 1041 carved cubes of porcelain paste with Chinese characters, afterward baked them and "set" the porcelain type by help of parallel wires on a plate of iron in a cement bed. It is certain that the art of printing was known in the Celestial empire for centuries before it came to light in Europe.

Polly's Christmas Stocking

By BERTHA M. MASTERS



POLLY DANE sat up in bed and blinked her sleepy eyes. The nursery was very quiet, except for the snapping of the coals in the grate. The fire made a soft glow of red light on the ceiling, and the figures on the Mother Goose wall paper seemed alive.

It was Christmas eve, and it seemed to Polly that she had been asleep for hours, yet the big clock in the lower hall was only booming eleven times.

"I wonder if Santa Claus will find Lucinda's stocking?" thought Polly.

"Praps by and by I'll go and see if he has been there."

Polly closed her eyes and thought about Lucinda Ames, who was cook's little girl. Lucinda was as black as night, but she was just Polly's age, and Polly liked her.

Lucinda told most of her secrets to Polly. That was how Polly knew that



"SANTA CLAUS HAS BEEN!" CHUCKLED POLLY.

Lucinda wanted a little "white folks" dollie instead of the cunning black babies that people gave her.

Polly went to sleep and woke up with a start. She was sure that she had been wide awake all the time, yet from the mantelpiece there hung a fat, bulging stocking.

"Santa Claus has been!" chuckled Polly, and she slipped out of bed and pattered across the floor.

What a lovely, knobby, mysterious looking thing her stocking was!

Polly felt of the toe.

There was money—real money! And peeping at her from the top of the stocking was the sweetest little baby doll you could imagine.

"Oh, dear, I do hope that Santa Claus has brought Lucinda one just like it!" sighed Polly. "I believe I'll see!"

Barefooted, with her little white gown trailing on the red carpet, Polly pattered silently along the hall until she reached the door that led into the wing where the servants slept.

The first door was Maggie's and the second door led into the room where Susan, the cook, slept with her little girl Lucinda.

From the knob of this door hung a big white stocking and, like Polly's, it was bulging with knobby things. But alas! From the top of Lucinda's stocking there popped a black baby doll.

It was black—instead of white. How poor Lucinda would cry!

Polly's heart beat very fast as she gently took the black baby out of Lucinda's stocking and tucking it under her arm, she ran back to the nursery.

She had to climb on a chair to reach her own white baby doll, but soon she had taken it out of her stocking and put the cunning black baby in its place.

"I never had a black doll, and they are so dear and cunning," Polly told herself while she hugged her own precious baby to her breast.

She hugged the baby doll all the way back to Lucinda's door and she kissed it fondly as she tucked it in the top of Lucinda's stocking.

When she passed the door of her mother's room she did not see four eyes watching her.

And the most beautiful surprise of all came after breakfast!

Polly's father found two especially nice presents for Polly and Lucinda, who was crazy with delight over her white baby doll.

Santa Claus certainly does do funny things! On the Christmas tree were a white baby doll for unselfish Polly and a dear little black one for Lucinda!

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

Do "plants" for making pretty gifts grow up to Christmas trees? And are "the sea-sons' greetings" sent by salt sons of the seas? Are Yule logs cut from snow drift-wood by Yuletide washers ashore? And would you stub a mistletoe against a parlor door? If Eve had tried from holly twigs a party gown to weave Do you suppose that Adam would have called her "Christmas Eve?" St. Nicholas in autosleigh defies police and laws. Do regulations as to speed contain a Santa clause?—Lippincott's Magazine.

CHRISTMAS DUSK.

Come, little boy, to mother's knee, The Christmas twilight trembles down With rose tints for the wondrous tree And rose glow for the snow clad town, And all is marvelous—but you Most marvelous of all to me, For I may hold you as I do, As Mary held him on her knee.

And he was sweet and he was fair, As are all mothers' little boys; His lips, his smile, his eyes, his hair, To Mary were her chiefest joys. And she would sing to him as I Sing while the sun dies in the west; I hear your weary, sleepy sigh As Mary heard his on her breast.

And in the after years, I think, When he was treading sorrow's way And held the bitter cup to drink She brooded on the happy day. When he ran singing through the room And found a hundred things to do To drive away all chance of gloom— And was a little boy like you.

So drop your toys and let us sing The songs that heart and home have blest.

For love is more than anything And life is work and play and rest. And Mary's was the mother heart, A heart of love all fair and fine, That into tender throbs could start For just a little boy like mine.

Across the years I reach to her And touch her white and empty hands, Down all the ages seems to stir A message that she understands; The subtle rapture that I keep Shrouded in the very soul of me, When I may hold you here, asleep, As Mary held him on her knee. —Wilbur D. Nesbit in Harper's Weekly.

Before the birth of Christ

the ancient Romans indulged at the midwinter season in a festival from which it is supposed that many of the present day traditions sprang. Presents were given and received. An expression of mutual brotherhood was shown in the custom of the masters and their slaves exchanging places and the former waiting upon the latter.

Dixie's Noisy Christmas.

In lower latitudes, where the weather bureau makes even no pretense at supplying snow, says the New York Sun, the celebration of Christmas takes on a different manifestation. South of Washington Christmas has always been the day of great noise, the day set apart for the clangor of bells, the shrilling of trumpets, above all else the firecracker.

In the social conditions of the south before the revolution the day of noise and crash of gunpowder was the 5th of November, on which day all loyal subjects were adjured to "remember, remember the gunpowder treason and plot." The celebration of this noisy execution of Guy Fawkes by the loyal cavalier families of the south established a winter holiday of which noise

was the predominant characteristic. After the southern colonies had joined equal hands with the northern in the long war, gunpowder treason was no longer the theme for celebration. But some celebration there must be to provide for the noise which had become a habit in the early winter. In the earlier times Christmas had been a day of sobriety out of doors, of lavish hospitality within.

What more natural, then, than to postpone the racket of gunpowder day until the next holiday in course and to give Christmas an outdoor element which it had never possessed?

Different Sorts of Christmas.

Each stage in our progress from the cradle to the grave has its different Christmas. Old age forgets itself, the ghosts which haunt its memories, and enters into the young creature's happiness with a relish second only to the child's. The grandmother no longer wishes sleds or hoops or gingerbread monkeys for herself, but she looks with love and wonder upon the little beings who respond so radiantly to these objects of domestic manufacture. Between these generations stand the parents, with their own lives of bustle and responsibility and desire, their own games and gewgaws to pursue, but yet with a beginning of the change from living for themselves to living in their young.—Norman Hapgood in Colliers.

It was in New York, or, rather, New Amsterdam, that Santa Claus made his first American appearance in something like the garb and manner now familiar to all of us. From the Netherlands the Knickerbockers brought with them the Christmas of love and sympathy in religion, of comradeship among neighbors and of festivity in the family.

A Disappointment.

"Ferdie had one great disappointment while in Greece."

"What was that?"

"He couldn't find anybody who belonged to a Greek letter society."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Telephones installed during the last ten days of December will be billed from January First.

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You Will Need Money for Christmas

For Taxes, Insurance Premiums, Your Winter Coal Bill and Other Purposes

HERE IS

An Easy Way to Get It
A Sure Way to Have It

Join the Christmas Club which opens for membership December 20th, 1915 For the Club Year of 1916

In Class 5, pay 5c the last week, 10c the 2nd week, 15c the 3rd week, and so on for 50 weeks, and we will give you a check two weeks before Christmas for \$63.75.

Or in Class 2, pay 2c the 1st week, 4c the 2nd week, 6c the 3rd week, and so on for 50 weeks, and we will give you a check two weeks before Christmas for \$25.50.

You May Reverse the Order of Payments if You Wish to Do So

For instance, in Class 5, going up, the payments start with 5c and end with \$2.50. If you desire to do so, you may start with \$2.50 the first week and pay 5c less every week until the last week's payment will be 5c. In Class 2, going up, the payments start with 2c and end with \$1.00. If you desire to do so, you may start with \$1.00 the first week and pay 2c less every week until the last week's payment will be 2c.

Should You Prefer to Pay an Equal Amount Each Week You Can Do So

In Class 50, the payments are 50c each week for 50 weeks and two weeks before Christmas you will receive a check for \$25.00.

In Class 100, the payments are \$1.00 each week for 50 weeks and two weeks before Christmas you will receive a check for \$50.00.

Payments Must be Made Every Week, or May be Made in Advance

Can you think of an easier way to provide money for Christmas presents? Join yourself—get everyone in the family to join. Show this to your friends and get them to join.

Everybody is Welcome to Join

The Christmas Club opens Monday, Dec. 20th, 1915 for the Club year of 1916. Call and let us tell you all about the plan.

Make Your Holiday Season a Happy One

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Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum will be paid to all members who make all payments the week they are due or in advance.

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